

Serial No: 10/562,108

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional claim fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims is not more than three, and the total number of claims is not more than originally filed.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include limitations of dependent Claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, and Claim 4 now depends from amended Claim 1. Applicant has amended Claims 21 and 28 into independent form. Applicant has amended Claim 31 back into dependent form. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 12, 20, 25-27, 30, 32, 33, 36, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2003065441 is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of dependent Claim 3, which the Office Action indicates is allowable with the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer, and intervening Claim 2, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

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Double Patenting

Claims 1-38 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-3, 5-29, 32-50, and 52-54 of copending Serial No. 10/918,334. Applicant encloses herewith an executed Terminal Disclaimer and the necessary fee, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

All claims are understood to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if any issue remains.

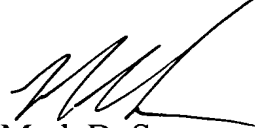
Conclusion

Applicant intends to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicant has not addressed or resolved in this response, the undersigned attorney again requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

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Applicant sincerely believes that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully requests early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MDS', written over a horizontal line.

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